



CITY COUNCIL

Administrative Oversight Committee

**Monday, July 02, 2007
Meeting Report**

Attendance: S. Marmarou, D. Sterner, M. Baez

Others Attending: C. Kanezo, L. Churchill

I. Interviews

Eron Lloyd (Appointment- Environmental Advisory Board)

Mr. Lloyd expressed sincere interest in serving on the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) and was honored that the City of Reading would consider his application. Mr. Lloyd described his many activities as a student at Albright and the reports he has prepared on behalf of the City of Reading. Mr. Lloyd felt Reading was at an environmental tipping point and appropriate stewardship was necessary.

Mr. Marmarou and Mr. Sterner both commented on the quality of Mr. Lloyd's resume. Mr. Marmarou explained the City Environmental Advisory Board would operate closely with similar County organizations; Mr. Marmarou discussed the regional dimension of the board.

Mr. Sterner commended Mr. Lloyd for his willingness to volunteer.

Mr. Kanezo provided a copy of the EAB ordinance and informed Mr. Lloyd that Council would act upon the appointment resolution during the July 09, 2007 regular meeting.

The committee thanked Mr. Huff for desiring to serve the City of Reading.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommended the appointment of Mr. Eron Lloyd to the Environmental Advisory Board.

Harriet Rauenzahn (Environmental Advisory Board)

Ms. Rauenzahn stated she became aware of the boards existence after discussing environmental matters with several friends. Ms. Rauenzahn was very enthused about

the prospect of serving on a board designed to deal with environmental issues. Ms. Rauenzahn discussed the importance of involving the local community in the decision making process and admired how the City of Reading actively seeks citizen participation.

Mr. Sterner stated City Council is committed to promoting citizen awareness and service. Mr. Sterner asked what specific skills Ms. Rauenzahn could offer.

Ms. Rauenzahn described her research abilities, flexibility to attend meetings and general commitment to the environment. Ms. Rauenzahn emphasized her willingness to research any issue, no matter how complex.

Mr. Kanezo provided a copy of the EAB ordinance and informed Ms. Rauenzahn that Council would act upon the appointment resolution during the June 09, 2007 regular meeting. Mr. Kanezo informed Ms. Rauenzahn that an organizational meeting would be convened as soon as practical.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommended the appointment of Ms. Harriet Rauenzahn to the Environmental Advisory Board.

Denton Buckley (Appointment- Downtown Improvement District Board)

Mr. Buckley stated it is the business of DID to promote a clean, safe and business friend downtown. As a longtime merchant in the downtown, Mr. Buckley felt it was necessary to participate in the decision making process.

Mr. Marmarou asked what Mr. Buckley thought was the best feature of downtown Reading. After some thought Mr. Buckley remarked that the abundance of affordable parking was a benefit. Mr. Buckley also commented on the wealth of downtown history and character.

Mr. Sterner asked how businesses were faring in the downtown. Mr. Buckley discussed the difficulties new business face. Established entities like Gilberts Furniture and the Peanut Bar are also struggling. Mr. Buckley urged City Council to continue to cooperate with the Administration; at least as far as economic development is concerned.

Ms. Baez asked what skills Mr. Buckley would bring to DID. Mr. Buckley promised to bring professional business practices and a common sense approach problem solving.

Mr. Marmarou thanked Mr. Buckley for his willingness to volunteer.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommended the appointment of Mr. Denton Buckley to the Downtown Improvement District

Joe Kuzminski (Appointment- Reading Area Water Authority)

Mr. Marmarou asked what skills Mr. Kuzminski would bring to RAWA. Mr. Kuzminski stated he was very familiar with water utility operations. While a member of Reading City Council – under the Commission form of government – Mr. Kuzminski oversaw the water utility operations.

Mr. Sterner commended Mr. Kuzminski on his willingness to continue volunteering.

Mr. Churchill asked Mr. Marmarou if he might be able to ask a few questions. Mr. Marmarou welcomed Mr. Churchill to the discussion. Mr. Churchill asked what Mr. Kuzminski saw as the primary responsibility of the Water Authority. Mr. Kuzminski responded that the Water Authority is responsible for protecting the rights of consumers. Mr. Kuzminski described the importance of intelligent management and the paramount need to represent customers in a fair manner.

Mr. Churchill asked if Mr. Kuzminski would be willing to support the dissolution of the organization, should the need ever arise. Mr. Kuzminski reiterated that he would do whatever was in the best interest of the consumer, though he understood that certain situations call for certain responses.

Mr. Marmarou thanked Mr. Kuzminski for taking the time to attend the meeting. Mr. Marmarou informed Mr. Kuzminski that the City Clerk's Office would keep him informed as the appointment process moved forward.

Thomas Brogan (Appointment- Reading Area Water Authority)

Mr. Marmarou thanked Mr. Brogan for taking the time to attend the meeting. Mr. Marmarou was satisfied with Mr. Brogan's resume and asked that Mr. Churchill pose the initial questions.

Mr. Churchill asked why Mr. Brogan was interested in serving on the Water Authority. Mr. Brogan replied that water is a commodity of exponentially increasing value that must be managed in a responsible and intelligent manner. Mr. Brogan also expressed sincere interest in preserving a legacy left to Reading by previous progressive administrations. Both Mr. Brogan and Mr. Marmarou noted the historical significance of much of the water system.

Mr. Churchill asked if Mr. Brogan would be willing to support the dissolution of the organization, should the need ever arise. Mr. Brogan explained that for organization to be effective authorities need to express the will of the governing body. Mr. Brogan agreed to support the dissolution of the authority, provided both the Mayor and the Governing Body were in agreement on the issue.

Mr. Marmarou thanked Mr. Brogan for taking the time to attend the meeting. Mr. Marmarou informed Mr. Brogan that the City Clerk's Office would keep him informed as the appointment process moved forward.

A majority of the Administrative Oversight Committee recommended the appointment of Mr. Joe Kuzminski to the Reading Area Water Authority. Ms. Baez did not agree to the recommendation and indicated she would consider proposing an alternate resolution at the 07/09/07 meeting of Council.